

**WISCONSIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
TELECONFERENCE MINUTES**

February 6, 2017

The Wisconsin Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights convened a public meeting via conference call on Monday, February 6, 2017. The meeting was recorded and open to the public from 12:00 PM to 12:47 PM CST.

Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Berlinski, Heather
- Bleecker, Naheed (Chair)
- Hansen, Lee
- Means, Demond
- Rae, Jason
- Tisdale, William

Absent:

- Bradley, Rebecca
- Diaz-Bautista, Elsa
- Driscoll, Robert
- Harris, Angelique
- Kelly, Daniel
- Pontynen, Arthur
- Shelton-Williams, Dawn
- Taeuber, Stacy
- Thao, May yer
- Xiong, Yang

Commission Staff Present:

- Wojnaroski, Melissa (DFO)

Members of the Public Present:

- None identified.

Welcome and Roll Call

- The Chair conducted roll call and welcomed all members present.

Approval of Minutes, 11/7/2016

- Lee Hansen moved to approve the Committee's meeting minutes from November 7, 2016.
- Demond Means seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Election of Vice-Chair

- The Chair discussed the option for the Committee to elect a Vice-Chair.
- The role of the Vice-Chair includes:
 - Assisting the Chair in preparation for Committee meetings
 - Serving as acting-Chair in the absence of the Chair
- The Chair invited members to self-nominate or to nominate another member to serve as Vice-Chair.
 - Jason Rae volunteered to serve as Vice-Chair
 - Other nominations will be accepted prior to the next Committee meeting.
 - Interested members should contact the Chair
 - Committee members will have the opportunity to select and vote on a nominee for Vice-Chair at the next Committee meeting, TBD.

Committee Participation

- The Chair facilitated a discussion about ways to encourage increased Committee participation

- Scheduling meetings during the lunch hour may maximize Committee member availability
- Participation may also increase as the Committee finishes their hate crime study and moves on to a new civil rights topic.

Report Discussion

- The Committee reviewed a partial draft of their report on Hate Crimes and Civil Rights in Wisconsin, based on both 2013 and 2016 testimony. (attached)
- Primary Themes
 - The definition of hate crimes, particularly as distinguished from hate incidents, may still be difficult to understand/visualize and require additional examples. Suggestion to insert one or more examples of successfully prosecuted hate crime cases in the background Section A: Federal Hate Crime Statutes beginning on p. 05.
 - Committee members with specific examples to offer/insert should send them to Melissa prior to the next meeting.
 - Community Experiences, Section IV (A), beginning on p. 12:
 - Committee members with specific examples of community experiences or individual stories to highlight should send them to Melissa for inclusion in the next draft.
 - The Recommendation section should include additional training for law enforcement to better identify victims of hate crime and to more consistently respond with the appropriate sensitivity.

Civil Rights in Wisconsin

- Committee members were reminded of project topics proposed in 2016 prior to the decision to revisit the 2013 hate crime testimony (see attached)
- USCCR staff provided an overview of other topic currently or recently being studied by other Committees:
 - Voting Rights – Kansas, Illinois
 - Police/Community Relations – Missouri, Minnesota
 - Civil Asset Forfeiture – Michigan
 - School to Prison Pipeline – Oklahoma, Indiana
 - Human Trafficking – Ohio
- Discussion of the Committee's next topic was tabled until the next meeting, to allow more members to participate in the decision.

Open Comment – Public Participation

- At the conclusion of the meeting all public lines were opened for comment. No public comment was received.

Adjournment

- Bill Tisdale moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:47pm. Lee Hansen seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously by a voice vote.

Next meeting

- To be determined
- USCCR Staff will poll Committee members for availability